

jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, Committee on the Budget, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Committee on Armed Services, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Committee on Finance, Committee on Foreign Relations, Committee on Governmental Affairs, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Committee on Rules and Administration, Committee on Small Business, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Indian Affairs, Select Committee on Intelligence and the Special Committee on Aging.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES SUBMITTED DURING RECESS

Pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 4, 1995, the following report was submitted on September 15, 1995, during the recess of the Senate:

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Appropriations, with amendments:

H.R. 2127: A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-145).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 977: A bill to correct certain references in the Bankruptcy Code.

S. 1111: A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents on biotechnological processes.

S.J. Res. 20: A joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the compact to provide for joint natural resource management and enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to natural resources and boating at the Jennings Randolph Lake Project lying in Garrett County, Maryland and Mineral County, West Virginia, entered into between the States of West Virginia and Maryland.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 1250: A bill to amend titles 5 and 37, United States Code, to provide for the continuance of pay and the authority to make certain expenditures and obligations during lapses in appropriations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. HATFIELD (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1251: A bill to establish a National Fund for Health Research to expand medical research programs through increased funding provided to the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1252: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives to stimulate economic growth in depressed areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. 1253: A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to penalties for crimes involving cocaine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KYL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 1254: A bill to disapprove of amendments to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines relating to lowering of crack sentences and sentences for money laundering and transactions in property derived from unlawful activity; read the first time.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1255: A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for medicare contracting reforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. EXON, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. FORD):

S. 1256: A bill to provide marketing loans, loan deficiency payments, and a flexible acreage base for the 1996 through 2002 crops of wheat, feed grains, and oilseeds, to establish an environmental quality incentives program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 1257: A bill to amend the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize programs relating to homeless assistance for veterans; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 1258: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a one-time election of the interest rate to be used to determine present value for purposes of pension cash-out restrictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 1250: A bill to amend titles 5 and 37, United States Code, to provide for the continuance of pay and the authority to make certain expenditures and obligations during lapses in appropriations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PROTECTION ACT

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I introduce an important piece of legislation called the Federal Employee Compensation Protection Act.

With a budget stalemate looming ahead, I think it is crucial that we keep our faith with Federal employees. The Mikulski-Sarbanes legislation will keep that faith by protecting Federal employee pay and benefits during a Government shutdown. Our legislation will ensure that Federal employees in Maryland and across the Nation will be able to make their mortgage payments, put food on the table, and provide for their families.

A shutdown of the Federal Government, no matter how short, would disrupt the lives of thousands of Federal employees and their families. In my State of Maryland alone, there are more than 280,000 Federal employees. They are some of the most dedicated and hard-working people in America today. These employees have devoted their careers and lives to public service, and they should not be used as pawns in a game of political brinkmanship.

Federal employees have already endured their fair share of hardship this year. Downsizing, diet COLA's, attacks on pensions and health benefits, and now the threat of unpaid furloughs have damaged morale at nearly every Federal agency. This assault must stop Mr. President. We cannot continue to denigrate and downgrade Federal employees and at the same time expect Government to work better.

I urge my colleagues to support the Mikulski-Sarbanes legislation and work to prevent this train wreck from happening. We have a contract with our Federal employees, and we should encourage their dedication by ensuring that the contract is honored and their pay and benefits are not put in jeopardy.

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI, in cosponsoring this important legislation to ensure the protection of Federal employee pay and benefits in the event of a furlough.

We have a responsibility to the men and women who have dedicated themselves to public service and I would hope that my colleagues would join Senator MIKULSKI and I in our ongoing effort to maintain the Federal Government's commitment to its dedicated work force.

Over the past several months, Federal employees have been subject to numerous attacks on their pay and earned benefits. Despite my opposition, Congress approved the Republican budget resolution which seeks to change the calculation of retirement benefits for Federal employees from the employee's highest 3-year average to the highest 5-year average. The resolution also contains a reduction in the Federal Government's contribution to employee health care benefits and an increase from 7 to 7.5 percent in Federal employee contribution rates over the next 7 years.

In my view, this is a breach of the contract with Federal employees. In an attempt to restore fairness for Federal workers, I offered, along with Senator MIKULSKI and several of my colleagues, an amendment to the Republican budget resolution which would have stricken the high three/high five provision. Unfortunately, the provision failed by the narrowest of margins.

Mr. President, Federal employees have made a choice to serve their country and we should respect and reward that choice by supporting these hard-working, dedicated individuals.